

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 21 and 23 and add new Claims 28 and 29 as follows.

1. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight container,
comprising:
 - a bonding step of bonding a first member and a second member, the
bonding step comprising:
 - a first step of forming an underlayer on the first member;
 - a second step of providing a bonding agent on the underlayer;
 - a third step of forming a contact member, which is different from the
bonding agent, on the second member; and
 - a fourth step of bringing the bonding agent into contact with the contact
member,
 - wherein the wettability of the bonding agent to the underlayer is
superior to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the first member prior to the first step,
 - the bondability of the bonding agent to the contact member is superior
to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the second member prior to the third step, and
 - the third step is performed after a predetermined treatment is performed
for the second member.
2. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container,
according to Claim 1,

wherein the bonding step is a step of forming a closed bond line which defines an airtight space by bonding the first member and the second member,

the contact member formed in the third step is placed at least all along a position at which the closed bond line is to be formed so as to be brought into contact with the bonding agent, and

the bondability of the bonding agent to the contact member placed all along the position at which the closed bond line is to be formed is superior to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the second member prior to the third step.

3. (Original) A method for manufacturing an airtight container, comprising:

a bond line forming step of bonding a first member and a second member to form a closed bond line which defines an airtight space, the bond line forming step comprising:

a first step of forming an underlayer on the first member;

a second step of providing a bonding agent on the underlayer;

a third step of placing a contact member, which is different from the bonding agent, all along a position of the second member at which the closed bond line is to be formed; and

a fourth step of bringing the bonding agent into contact with the contact member,

wherein the wettability of the bonding agent to the underlayer is superior to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the first member prior to the first step, and

the bondability of the bonding agent to the contact member is superior to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the second member prior to the third step.

4. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent comprises a metal.

5. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent comprises a metal.

6. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 1, wherein the underlayer comprises a metal.

7. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 3, wherein the underlayer comprises a metal.

8. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 4, wherein the underlayer comprises a metal which is unlikely to be oxidized as compared to the metal for the bonding agent.

9. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 5, wherein the underlayer comprises a metal which is unlikely to be oxidized as compared to the metal for the bonding agent.

10. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 1, wherein the bonding agent comprises an oxide at a position which is to be brought into contact with the contact member.

11. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 3, wherein the bonding agent comprises an oxide at a position which is to be brought into contact with the contact member.

12. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 1, wherein the contact member comprises an oxide at a position which is to be brought into contact with the bonding agent.

13. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 3, wherein the contact member comprises an oxide at a position which is to be brought into contact with the bonding agent.

14. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 12, wherein the oxide comprises SiO_2 or PbO .

15. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 13, wherein the oxide comprises SiO_2 or PbO .

16. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 1, wherein the second step is performed under the conditions in which at least a surface of the bonding agent is oxidized.

17. (Original) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according to Claim 3, wherein the second step is performed under the conditions in which at least a surface of the bonding agent is oxidized.

18. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device having an airtight container and display elements placed therein, comprising the step of:
forming the airtight container by the manufacturing method according to Claim 1.

19. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device having an airtight container and display elements placed therein, comprising the step of:
forming the airtight container by the manufacturing method according to Claim 3.

20. (Original) The method for manufacturing an image display device, according to Claim 18,
wherein the airtight container comprises a first substrate, a second substrate facing thereto, and a surrounding member surrounding an airtight space formed between the first substrate and the second substrate, and

the first member is the surrounding member.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing an image display device, according to Claim 18,

wherein the airtight container comprises a first substrate, a second substrate facing thereto, and a surrounding member surrounding ~~[[a]]~~ an airtight space formed between the first substrate and the second substrate, and

the first member is the first substrate or the second substrate.

22. (Original) The method for manufacturing an image display device, according to Claim 19,

wherein the airtight container comprises a first substrate, a second substrate facing thereto, and a surrounding member surrounding an airtight space formed between the first substrate and the second substrate, and

the first member is the surrounding member.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 19,

wherein the airtight container comprises a first substrate, a second substrate facing thereto, and a surrounding member surrounding ~~[[a]]~~ an airtight space formed between the first substrate and the second substrate, and

the first member is the first substrate or the second substrate.

24. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device having an airtight container and display elements placed therein, comprising the step of:

forming the airtight container by the manufacturing method according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined treatment is a step of forming at least a part of the display elements on the second member or a step of forming at least a part of wires, which supply signals to the display elements, on the second member.

25. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device having an airtight container and display elements placed therein, comprising the step of:

forming the airtight container by the manufacturing method according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined treatment is a step of forming at least a part of wires, which supply signals to the display elements, on the second member, and

at least a part of the contact member is formed on said at least a part of wires.

26. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device having an airtight container and display elements placed therein, comprising the step of:

forming the airtight container by the manufacturing method according to Claim 1,

wherein the predetermined treatment is a step of forming an electrode or a fluorescent film on the second member.

27. (Original) A bonding method comprising the steps of:

forming an underlayer on a first member;

providing a bonding agent on the underlayer;

forming a contact member, which is different from the bonding agent,

on a second member; and

bringing the bonding agent into contact with the contact member so that

the first member and the second member are bonded to each other,

wherein the wettability of the bonding agent to the underlayer is

superior to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the first member before the underlayer is

formed therein, and

the bondability of the bonding agent to the contact member is superior

to that of the bonding agent to a surface of the second member before the contact member is

formed thereon.

28. (New) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according

to Claim 4, wherein a metal composing the bonding agent is oxidized at least at a position which

is to be brought into contact with the contact member.

29. (New) The method for manufacturing an airtight container, according

to Claim 5, wherein a metal composing the bonding agent is oxidized at least at a position which

is to be brought into contact with the contact member.